

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SN

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED MISSIONARIES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

REF: SINGAPORE 3247

"FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QUOTE

R 101222Z MAY 74

SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OVERSEAS MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP (OMF) PAID AN UNOFFICIAL CALL ON THE DCM MAY 9. LEAKS FROM THE PATTANI PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF CONTINUE TO STIMULATE PRESS REPORTING. FIFTH MILITARY CIRCLE COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL SAN CHITPATIMA, ARRIVED IN BANGKOK TO CONFER WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IF OMF SEEKS TO PASS THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS TO US. END SUMMARY.

1. DENNIS LANE AND ISSAC SCOTT, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
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OVERSEAL MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP (OMF) REVIEWED THE KIDNAP-

PING OF THE TWO OMF NURSES (REF A) DURING AN UNOFFICIAL CALL ON THE DCM MAY 9. SCOTT STRESSED THE INFORMAL NATURE OF THE VISIT, AND HIS DESIRE FOR NO PUBLICITY OR

OTHER ACTION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT OMF CAN BE USED TO PRESSURE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. HE RECOUNTED HOW PRESS LEAKS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE PATTANI POLICE, COMPLICATE OMF'S EFFORTS. HE AND LANE, IN FACT, WERE IN BANGKOK TRYING TO SEE RANKING THAI OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN THE PROGRESS OF EVENTS. THE DCM STRESSED THAT THIS IS A THAI PROBLEM SINCE THE RTG HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SECURITY WITHIN THE KINGDOM. HE URGED OMF TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE RTG AND FOLLOW ITS GUIDANCE. SCOTT AND LANE AGREED.

2. SCOTT INQUIRED ABOUT THE EMBASSY'S POSITION IF HE WERE TO FORMALLY PRESENT A COPY OF THE LATEST DEMAND CALLING FOR PATTANI INDEPENDENCE AND A CESSATION OF AMERICAN AID TO THE RTG. THE DCM SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT THE USG IF THE OMF PASSED THE LETTER TO US. SPEAKING PRIVATELY HE SAID OUR STANDING POLICY IS NOT TO ACCEDE TO TERRORIST DEMANDS, SINCE GREATER DEMANDS WOULD THEN ENSUE. SCOTT APPRECIATED THIS STANCE AND SAID THAT OMF IS TRYING NOT TO CONVEY THE NOTION THAT IT IS PRESSING ANY GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE SINCE OMF IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT REPERCUSSIONS ON ITS PEOPLE IN OTHER AREAS. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHO HAD KIDNAPPED THE NURSES AND WHO WAS WRITING THE RANSOM NOTES. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE DOING WHAT THEY COULD TO SECURE THE NURSES' RELEASE.

3. REFERENCE C REPORTS THAT MUSLIM SEPARATIST LEADER PHO SU WILL COOPERATE WITH YALA PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE TWO KIDNAPPED NURSES. THE "BANGKOK POST" REPORTED MAY 9 THAT SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE COMMANDER, COLONEL ARI KARIBUT, CONFERRED WITH PHO SU AND HAD ENLISTED HIS ASSISTANCE. COMPLICATING PHO SU'S MEDIATION EFFORTS IS THE CONTINUED ENMITY OF THE PATTANI PROVINCIAL POLICE. REFERENCE D COVERS THE

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ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PHO SU OF THE PATTANI PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF.

4. FIFTH MILITARY CIRCLE COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL SAN CHITPATIMA, ARRIVED IN BANGKOK REPORTEDLY TO CONFER WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS. "THE NATION" MAY 10 QUOTES SAN AS SAYING THAT HE RULES OUT EMBARKING ON A VIOLENT SUPPRESSION OPERATION.

5. THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR CONTACTED THAI OFFICIALS AT
THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (DTEC)

AND THE GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF THE EDUCATION
MINISTRY. THEY ASSURED HIM THAT THE VOLUNTEERS IN THE
SOUTH FACE NO SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS. THE DIRECTOR
INTENDS TO REMIND ALL VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE NORMAL SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN THE EVENT THAT THE
OMF SHOULD SEEK TO PRESENT THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS TO
US OFFICIALLY. MASTERS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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